

# Catfish Processing

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## Catfish Processing Up 6 Percent from Last Year

Farm-raised catfish processed during January 2010 totaled 38.5 million pounds round weight, up 6 percent from January 2009. The average price paid to producers was 88.4 cents per pound for January 2010, up 12.1 cents from last month and 7.4 cents above a year ago.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during January 2010 totaled 18.7 million pounds, down 3 percent from the comparable month in 2009. The total end of the month inventory decreased 3 percent from last month but was up slightly from a year ago. Sales of fresh fish, at 6.73 million pounds, were down 4 percent from January 2009 and represented 36 percent of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 11.9 million pounds, were down 2 percent from a year ago and accounted for the remaining 64 percent of total fish sales. Sales of whole fish represented 18 percent of the total fish sold, fillets accounted for 57 percent, and the remaining 25 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products.

The January 2010 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was \$2.36 per pound, down 21 cents from last year. Prices for fresh whole fish were \$1.52 per pound, down 20 cents from January 2009. Prices for fresh fillets were down 15 cents from a year ago at \$3.15 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged \$2.49 per pound, down 11 cents from January 2009. Prices for frozen whole dressed fish were down 4 cents at \$2.22 and frozen fillets at \$2.90 per pound were down 11 cents from a year ago.

Freshwater imports for consumption of *Ictalurus* spp., *Pangasius* spp., and other catfish of the order Siluriformes for December 2009 totaled 11.7 million pounds, up 50 percent from the amount imported in December 2008. Imports were from Cambodia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Thailand and Vietnam. The *Ictalurus* spp. imports totaled 2.53 million pounds, which were from Canada, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

Fresh, boneless catfish fillet exports totaled 63.1 thousand pounds, with 43.0 thousand pounds going to Canada and the rest going to the Bahamas, Equatorial Guinea and Germany. Exports of frozen, boneless catfish fillets reported for December 2009 totaled 56.3 thousand pounds, going to the British Virgin Islands, the Netherlands Antilles and Vietnam.

Import and export data are compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## **2009 Catfish Processing Down 9 Percent**

Farm-raised catfish processed during 2009 totaled 466 million pounds, 9 percent below the 510 million pounds processed in 2008. The average price paid to producers in 2009 was 77.1 cents per pound, 1 percent below the 77.6 cents paid last year.

Net pounds of processed catfish sold in 2009 totaled 229 million pounds, down 9 percent from the 251 million pounds sold last year.

The 2009 average price received for processed fish was \$2.53 per pound, up 9 cents from a year ago.

Inventory on hand at the end of 2009 totaled 14.5 million pounds, a decrease of 7 percent from the 15.5 million pounds on hand at the close of 2008.

## Contents

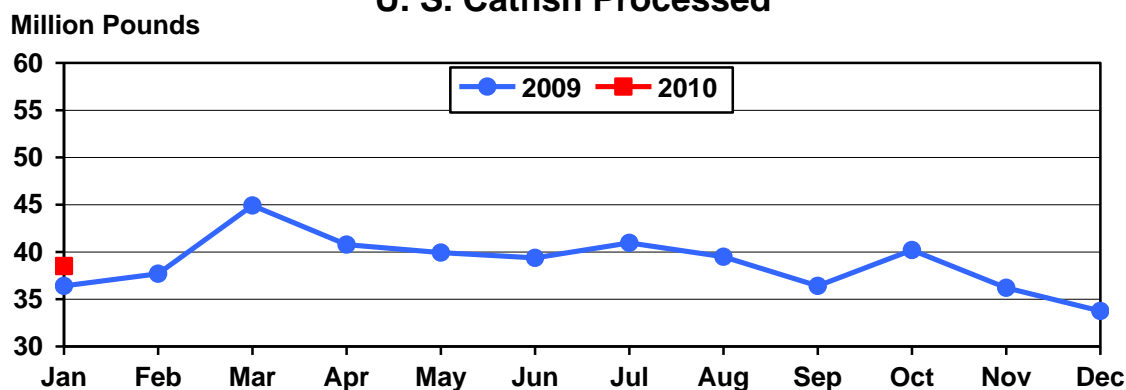
	Page
Quantity Processed and Price: 2009-2010.....	1
Sales Volume, Average Price: 2009-2010 .....	2
Ending Inventory: 2009-2010 .....	3
Imports: 2008-2009 .....	4
Exports: 2008-2009 .....	4
Fresh and Frozen Pounds Sold: 2009 .....	5
Fresh and Frozen Average Sales Price: 2009.....	6
Fresh and Frozen End-of-Month Inventory: 2009.....	7
Round Weight Processed: 1995-2009 .....	8
Prices Received by Producers: 1995-2009 .....	9
Imports: 1995-2009 .....	10
Reliability of Catfish Processing Estimates .....	11
Catfish Processors .....	11
Terms and Definitions .....	12
Information Contacts.....	12

**Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed and Prices  
Received by Producers, by Month, United States, 2009-2010**

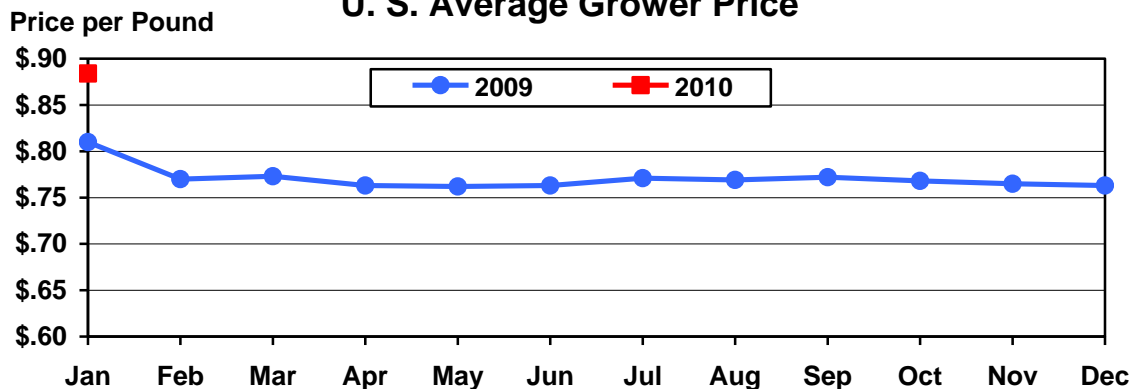
Month	Round Weight Processed								
	Monthly			Cumulative			Price per Pound <sup>1</sup>		
	2009	2010	Pct of 2009	2009	2010	Pct of 2009	2009	2010	Change from 2009
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Jan	36,406	38,502	106	36,406	38,502	106	0.810	0.884	0.074
Feb	37,702			74,108			0.770		
Mar	44,912			119,020			0.773		
Apr	40,768			159,788			0.763		
May	39,925			199,713			0.762		
Jun	39,370			239,083			0.763		
Jul	40,966			280,049			0.771		
Aug	39,490			319,539			0.769		
Sep	36,408			355,947			0.772		
Oct	40,191			396,138			0.768		
Nov	36,211			432,349			0.765		
Dec	33,751			466,100			0.763		

<sup>1</sup> Quantity processed by major processors and the prices received for fish delivered to the processing plant's door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

### U. S. Catfish Processed



### U. S. Average Grower Price



**Catfish Processors: Sales Volume and Average Price  
by Month, United States, 2009-2010**

Item <sup>1</sup>	Sales Volume			Average Price <sup>2</sup>		
	Jan 2009	Dec 2009 <sup>3</sup>	Jan 2010	Jan 2009	Dec 2009 <sup>3</sup>	Jan 2010
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
Fresh Fish						
Whole						
Round & Guttled	987	1,153	1,358	1.16	1.10	1.08
Whole Dressed	1,550	1,308	1,319	2.04	1.93	1.92
Total	2,537	2,461	2,677	1.72	1.57	1.52
Other						
Steaks	92	83	90	2.43	2.41	2.40
Nuggets	578	476	506	1.38	1.35	1.35
Other	39	52	42	3.70	3.38	3.61
Total	709	611	638	1.64	1.67	1.65
Fillets	3,795	3,038	3,419	3.30	3.19	3.15
Total Fresh	7,041	6,110	6,734	2.57	2.39	2.36
Frozen Fish						
Whole Dressed	704	506	652	2.26	2.22	2.22
Other						
Steaks	55	49	51	2.48	2.36	2.34
Nuggets	2,635	2,134	2,947	1.14	1.12	1.19
Other	1,159	617	1,015	3.37	2.93	3.52
Total	3,849	2,800	4,013	1.83	1.54	1.79
Fillets	7,668	7,138	7,264	3.01	2.91	2.90
Total Frozen	12,221	10,444	11,929	2.60	2.51	2.49
Fresh & Frozen Fish						
Whole						
Round & Guttled	987	1,153	1,358	1.16	1.10	1.08
Whole Dressed	2,254	1,814	1,971	2.11	2.01	2.02
Total	3,241	2,967	3,329	1.84	1.68	1.66
Other						
Steaks	147	132	141	2.45	2.39	2.38
Nuggets	3,213	2,610	3,453	1.18	1.16	1.21
Other	1,198	669	1,057	3.38	2.96	3.52
Total	4,558	3,411	4,651	1.80	1.56	1.77
Fillets	11,463	10,176	10,683	3.11	2.99	2.98
Total Fresh & Frozen	19,262	16,554	18,663	2.58	2.46	2.44

<sup>1</sup> For further detail, please refer to the terms and definitions section of this report.

<sup>2</sup> Gross value f.o.b. plant.

<sup>3</sup> Revised.

**Catfish Processors: Ending Inventory  
by Month, United States, 2009-2010**

Item <sup>1</sup>	Ending Inventory		
	Jan 2009	Dec 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Jan 2010
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Fresh Fish			
Whole			
Round & Guttred	*	*	*
Whole Dressed	*	*	*
Total	191	114	193
Other			
Steaks	*	*	*
Nuggets	99	42	80
Other	*	*	*
Total	103	44	86
Filletts	545	356	616
Total Fresh	839	514	895
Frozen Fish			
Whole Dressed	724	713	884
Other			
Steaks	*	*	*
Nuggets	1,173	2,246	1,787
Other	*	*	*
Total	2,296	3,060	2,533
Filletts	10,084	10,169	9,654
Total Frozen	13,104	13,942	13,071
Fresh & Frozen Fish			
Whole			
Round & Guttred	*	*	*
Whole Dressed	*	*	*
Total	915	827	1,077
Other			
Steaks	*	*	*
Nuggets	1,272	2,288	1,867
Other	*	*	*
Total	2,399	3,104	2,619
Filletts	10,629	10,525	10,270
Total Fresh & Frozen	13,943	14,456	13,966

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> For further detail, please refer to the terms and definitions section of this report.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

**Catfish: Imports, by Month, United States, 2008-2009**

Month	Imports <sup>1</sup>					
	Ictalurus spp.			Total <sup>2</sup>		
	2008	2009	Percent of 2008	2008	2009	Percent of 2008
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	2,944	2,344	80	9,666	9,819	102
Feb	2,575	1,225	48	9,603	6,527	68
Mar	2,040	972	48	7,884	8,942	113
Apr	3,040	1,364	45	10,492	8,548	81
May	2,864	1,659	58	10,151	11,592	114
Jun	1,758	1,088	62	11,299	10,577	94
Jul	1,202	1,849	154	8,674	10,765	124
Aug	1,315	1,210	92	6,994	11,711	167
Sep	987	1,385	140	6,462	12,541	194
Oct	579	1,584	274	7,188	13,857	193
Nov	1,374	2,144	156	6,198	12,783	206
Dec	2,425	2,527	104	7,817	11,718	150

<sup>1</sup> Data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Includes freshwater imports for consumption of *Ictalurus* spp., *Pangasius* spp., and other catfish of the order Siluriformes.

**Catfish: Exports, by Month, United States, 2008-2009**

Month	Exports <sup>1</sup>					
	Fresh			Frozen		
	2008	2009	Percent of 2008	2008	2009	Percent of 2008
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	134.6	87.0	65	23.1	0.0	
Feb	71.6	65.1	91	0.0	0.0	
Mar	106.3	65.1	61	11.9	50.6	425
Apr	72.3	47.5	66	1.2	12.8	1,067
May	57.0	79.1	139	0.0	14.2	
Jun	71.0	63.8	90	10.9	21.4	196
Jul	52.1	68.6	132	14.6	20.5	140
Aug	62.9	91.8	146	12.0	12.4	103
Sep	62.6	50.6	81	3.5	17.7	506
Oct	74.6	138.0	185	8.0	43.4	543
Nov	122.6	59.1	48	1.2	30.2	2,517
Dec	74.4	63.1	85	7.3	56.3	771

<sup>1</sup> Data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Catfish Processors: Fresh and Frozen Pounds Sold,  
by Month, United States, 2009<sup>1 2</sup>**

Month	Whole Fish			Other				Filletts	Total Sales
	Rnd & Gutted Only	Whole Dressed	Total	Steaks	Nuggets	Other	Total		
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Fresh									
Jan	987	1,550	2,537	92	578	39	709	3,795	7,041
Feb	1,263	1,489	2,752	83	679	48	810	3,732	7,294
Mar	1,380	1,757	3,137	91	652	54	797	4,196	8,130
Apr	1,200	1,533	2,733	80	526	78	684	3,894	7,311
May	1,018	1,533	2,551	82	576	93	751	3,864	7,166
Jun	1,117	1,429	2,546	81	635	67	783	3,621	6,950
Jul	1,121	1,461	2,582	83	525	38	646	3,649	6,877
Aug	1,006	1,326	2,332	87	568	54	709	3,554	6,595
Sep	956	1,365	2,321	91	503	50	644	3,444	6,409
Oct	1,395	1,435	2,830	85	549	51	685	3,495	7,010
Nov	1,132	1,220	2,352	80	487	49	616	2,989	5,957
Dec	1,153	1,308	2,461	83	476	52	611	3,038	6,110
Total	13,728	17,406	31,134	1,018	6,754	673	8,445	43,271	82,850
Frozen									
Jan		704	704	55	2,635	1,159	3,849	7,668	12,221
Feb		879	879	62	2,801	1,289	4,152	8,333	13,364
Mar		953	953	80	2,832	1,217	4,129	9,448	14,530
Apr		729	729	69	2,318	1,372	3,759	8,348	12,836
May		681	681	73	2,328	777	3,178	7,793	11,652
Jun		763	763	64	2,296	756	3,116	8,188	12,067
Jul		777	777	53	2,659	812	3,524	8,273	12,574
Aug		686	686	64	2,266	836	3,166	8,055	11,907
Sep		686	686	69	2,534	902	3,505	8,293	12,484
Oct		783	783	54	2,882	762	3,698	7,989	12,470
Nov		640	640	45	1,811	706	2,562	6,584	9,786
Dec		506	506	49	2,134	617	2,800	7,138	10,444
Total		8,787	8,787	737	29,496	11,205	41,438	96,110	146,335
Fresh & Frozen									
Jan	987	2,254	3,241	147	3,213	1,198	4,558	11,463	19,262
Feb	1,263	2,368	3,631	145	3,480	1,337	4,962	12,065	20,658
Mar	1,380	2,710	4,090	171	3,484	1,271	4,926	13,644	22,660
Apr	1,200	2,262	3,462	149	2,844	1,450	4,443	12,242	20,147
May	1,018	2,214	3,232	155	2,904	870	3,929	11,657	18,818
Jun	1,117	2,192	3,309	145	2,931	823	3,899	11,809	19,017
Jul	1,121	2,238	3,359	136	3,184	850	4,170	11,922	19,451
Aug	1,006	2,012	3,018	151	2,834	890	3,875	11,609	18,502
Sep	956	2,051	3,007	160	3,037	952	4,149	11,737	18,893
Oct	1,395	2,218	3,613	139	3,431	813	4,383	11,484	19,480
Nov	1,132	1,860	2,992	125	2,298	755	3,178	9,573	15,743
Dec	1,153	1,814	2,967	132	2,610	669	3,411	10,176	16,554
Total	13,728	26,193	39,921	1,755	36,250	11,878	49,883	139,381	229,185

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> For further detail, please refer to the terms and definitions section of this report.



**Catfish Processors: Fresh and Frozen Average Sales Price,  
by Month, United States, 2009<sup>1 2 3</sup>**

Month	Whole Fish			Other				Fillet	Total Sales
	Rnd & Gutted Only	Whole Dressed	Total	Steaks	Nuggets	Other	Total		
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
Fresh									
Jan	1.16	2.04	1.72	2.43	1.38	3.70	1.64	3.30	2.57
Feb	1.16	2.04	1.67	2.45	1.26	3.55	1.52	3.24	2.46
Mar	1.10	2.02	1.65	2.45	1.34	3.49	1.61	3.24	2.47
Apr	1.18	2.01	1.68	2.46	1.37	3.56	1.75	3.23	2.51
May	1.16	2.01	1.70	2.45	1.36	2.33	1.60	3.23	2.51
Jun	1.12	2.00	1.64	2.44	1.40	3.46	1.68	3.22	2.47
Jul	1.16	1.99	1.66	2.44	1.38	3.52	1.64	3.21	2.48
Aug	1.17	2.03	1.69	2.41	1.36	3.39	1.64	3.21	2.50
Sep	1.11	2.00	1.66	2.44	1.37	3.35	1.67	3.20	2.49
Oct	1.11	1.98	1.59	2.43	1.35	3.39	1.64	3.19	2.39
Nov	1.09	1.95	1.57	2.44	1.36	3.37	1.66	3.18	2.39
Dec	1.10	1.93	1.57	2.41	1.35	3.38	1.67	3.19	2.39
Avg	1.13	2.00	1.65	2.44	1.36	3.31	1.64	3.22	2.47
Frozen									
Jan		2.26	2.26	2.48	1.14	3.37	1.83	3.01	2.60
Feb		2.20	2.20	2.35	1.16	3.18	1.80	3.02	2.59
Mar		2.18	2.18	2.23	1.20	3.14	1.79	2.99	2.60
Apr		2.19	2.19	2.17	1.22	3.19	1.96	3.00	2.65
May		2.23	2.23	2.27	1.18	3.00	1.65	2.98	2.57
Jun		2.19	2.19	2.31	1.15	2.90	1.60	2.91	2.53
Jul		2.17	2.17	2.35	1.13	2.93	1.56	2.94	2.51
Aug		2.23	2.23	2.31	1.13	3.12	1.68	2.95	2.57
Sep		2.21	2.21	2.29	1.12	3.19	1.68	2.92	2.53
Oct		2.22	2.22	2.32	1.10	3.14	1.54	2.92	2.47
Nov		2.18	2.18	2.33	1.18	3.08	1.72	2.95	2.58
Dec		2.22	2.22	2.36	1.12	2.93	1.54	2.91	2.51
Avg		2.21	2.21	2.31	1.15	3.12	1.70	2.96	2.56
Fresh & Frozen									
Jan	1.16	2.11	1.84	2.45	1.18	3.38	1.80	3.11	2.58
Feb	1.16	2.10	1.80	2.41	1.18	3.19	1.76	3.09	2.54
Mar	1.10	2.08	1.77	2.35	1.23	3.15	1.76	3.07	2.55
Apr	1.18	2.07	1.79	2.33	1.25	3.21	1.92	3.07	2.60
May	1.16	2.08	1.81	2.37	1.22	2.93	1.64	3.06	2.55
Jun	1.12	2.07	1.77	2.38	1.20	2.95	1.62	3.01	2.51
Jul	1.16	2.05	1.78	2.40	1.17	2.96	1.58	3.02	2.50
Aug	1.17	2.10	1.81	2.37	1.18	3.14	1.67	3.03	2.55
Sep	1.11	2.07	1.79	2.38	1.16	3.20	1.68	3.00	2.52
Oct	1.11	2.06	1.72	2.39	1.14	3.16	1.55	3.00	2.44
Nov	1.09	2.03	1.70	2.40	1.22	3.10	1.71	3.02	2.51
Dec	1.10	2.01	1.68	2.39	1.16	2.96	1.56	2.99	2.46
Avg	1.13	2.07	1.77	2.38	1.19	3.13	1.69	3.04	2.53

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Prices are gross value f.o.b. plant.

<sup>3</sup> For further detail, please refer to the terms and definitions section of this report.

**Catfish Processors: Fresh and Frozen End-of-Month Inventory,  
by Month, United States, 2009<sup>1 2</sup>**

Month	Whole Fish			Other				Fillet	Total Inv.
	Rnd & Gutted Only	Whole Dressed	Total	Steaks	Nuggets	Other	Total		
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Fresh									
Jan	*	*	191	*	99	*	103	545	839
Feb	*	*	127	*	72	*	81	414	622
Mar	*	*	167	*	51	*	60	610	837
Apr	*	*	181	*	96	*	104	477	762
May	*	*	154	*	61	*	77	435	666
Jun	*	*	171	*	94	*	100	493	764
Jul	*	*	134	*	107	*	111	461	706
Aug	*	*	156	*	73	*	80	427	663
Sep	*	*	198	*	68	*	72	436	706
Oct	*	*	165	*	58	*	62	445	672
Nov	*	*	181	*	47	*	55	428	664
Dec	*	*	114	*	42	*	44	356	514
Frozen									
Jan		724	724	*	1,173	*	2,296	10,084	13,104
Feb		499	499	*	911	*	1,819	8,838	11,156
Mar		393	393	*	769	*	1,752	7,933	10,078
Apr		405	405	*	1,021	*	1,732	7,478	9,615
May		340	340	*	1,153	*	1,907	7,381	9,628
Jun		436	436	*	1,342	*	1,992	7,349	9,777
Jul		464	464	*	1,326	*	2,238	7,915	10,617
Aug		507	507	*	1,659	*	2,304	8,690	11,501
Sep		480	480	*	1,736	*	2,469	8,058	11,007
Oct		483	483	*	1,423	*	2,285	8,820	11,588
Nov		568	568	*	2,106	*	3,137	9,964	13,669
Dec		713	713	*	2,246	*	3,060	10,169	13,942
Fresh & Frozen									
Jan	*	*	915	*	1,272	*	2,399	10,629	13,943
Feb	*	*	626	*	983	*	1,900	9,252	11,778
Mar	*	*	560	*	820	*	1,812	8,543	10,915
Apr	*	*	586	*	1,117	*	1,836	7,955	10,377
May	*	*	494	*	1,214	*	1,984	7,816	10,294
Jun	*	*	607	*	1,436	*	2,092	7,842	10,541
Jul	*	*	598	*	1,433	*	2,349	8,376	11,323
Aug	*	*	663	*	1,732	*	2,384	9,117	12,164
Sep	*	*	678	*	1,804	*	2,541	8,494	11,713
Oct	*	*	648	*	1,481	*	2,347	9,265	12,260
Nov	*	*	749	*	2,153	*	3,192	10,392	14,333
Dec	*	*	827	*	2,288	*	3,104	10,525	14,456

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> For further detail, please refer to the terms and definitions section of this report.

**Farm-Raised Catfish: Round Weight Processed,  
by Month, United States, 1995-2009**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
1995	38,807	38,515	42,200	36,588	37,030	36,047	
1996	38,475	38,004	46,376	38,557	39,517	36,752	
1997	42,409	45,067	48,431	45,721	43,409	42,282	
1998	46,723	47,606	53,761	49,393	45,218	46,244	
1999	48,723	48,891	56,310	46,830	47,703	48,445	
2000	50,552	50,942	56,856	48,781	48,424	48,011	
2001	46,999	50,257	57,766	52,478	51,736	47,883	
2002	52,551	52,856	58,340	50,694	52,902	49,450	
2003	55,523	55,461	65,007	57,105	58,424	52,441	
2004	53,849	54,173	60,272	53,896	52,324	50,155	
2005	53,856	51,720	57,117	50,306	51,552	49,626	
2006	50,703	49,145	56,315	43,126	42,865	41,214	
2007	46,079	44,083	45,477	37,954	38,867	37,275	
2008	45,992	47,634	47,908	45,018	44,326	43,265	
2009 <sup>1</sup>	36,406	37,702	44,912	40,768	39,925	39,370	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
1995	35,800	38,827	37,634	39,456	34,119	31,863	446,886
1996	39,025	40,463	38,807	42,070	37,203	36,874	472,123
1997	43,376	44,154	43,472	46,275	40,137	40,216	524,949
1998	46,383	47,739	46,579	47,904	43,224	43,581	564,355
1999	50,074	50,372	50,414	52,407	48,118	48,341	596,628
2000	49,023	53,204	49,422	51,412	45,535	41,441	593,603
2001	47,829	51,690	49,699	52,264	44,670	43,837	597,108
2002	52,363	54,383	53,366	56,576	50,072	47,048	630,601
2003	54,089	54,153	51,885	57,652	51,246	48,518	661,504
2004	51,055	53,295	51,329	52,396	49,536	48,170	630,450
2005	47,241	50,686	47,151	49,034	46,674	45,707	600,670
2006	45,528	51,736	47,296	50,788	45,680	41,735	566,131
2007	39,168	42,626	39,519	45,890	40,307	39,001	496,246
2008	42,583	40,985	39,057	43,344	36,869	32,616	509,597
2009 <sup>1</sup>	40,966	39,490	36,408	40,191	36,211	33,751	466,100

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Farm-Raised Catfish: Prices Received by Producers,  
by Month, United States, 1995-2009 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	
1995	0.780	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	
1996	0.770	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.790	0.790	
1997	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.720	
1998	0.690	0.730	0.780	0.790	0.790	0.780	
1999	0.703	0.714	0.732	0.756	0.777	0.775	
2000	0.744	0.788	0.789	0.789	0.785	0.786	
2001	0.693	0.696	0.697	0.694	0.687	0.669	
2002	0.549	0.555	0.565	0.561	0.574	0.588	
2003	0.529	0.544	0.585	0.630	0.618	0.586	
2004	0.668	0.703	0.723	0.728	0.720	0.689	
2005	0.725	0.731	0.733	0.725	0.722	0.721	
2006	0.727	0.729	0.745	0.785	0.796	0.807	
2007	0.837	0.838	0.838	0.841	0.840	0.817	
2008	0.658	0.688	0.743	0.757	0.776	0.794	
2009 <sup>2</sup>	0.810	0.770	0.773	0.763	0.762	0.763	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
1995	0.790	0.790	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.786
1996	0.790	0.780	0.770	0.760	0.750	0.730	0.773
1997	0.710	0.700	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.712
1998	0.760	0.740	0.730	0.710	0.700	0.700	0.743
1999	0.768	0.743	0.728	0.716	0.713	0.716	0.737
2000	0.760	0.741	0.727	0.710	0.696	0.682	0.751
2001	0.656	0.624	0.610	0.596	0.566	0.554	0.647
2002	0.590	0.582	0.576	0.568	0.560	0.544	0.568
2003	0.564	0.552	0.560	0.567	0.610	0.629	0.581
2004	0.682	0.683	0.683	0.695	0.689	0.690	0.697
2005	0.723	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.726	0.725
2006	0.812	0.811	0.832	0.836	0.837	0.838	0.795
2007	0.762	0.731	0.697	0.682	0.666	0.650	0.767
2008	0.818	0.827	0.827	0.825	0.823	0.821	0.776
2009 <sup>2</sup>	0.771	0.769	0.772	0.768	0.765	0.763	0.771

<sup>1</sup> Quantity processed by major processors and the prices received for fish delivered to the processing plant's door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

**Catfish: Imports, by Month, United States, 1995-2009<sup>1 2</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
1995	61	49	172	181	384	203	
1996	256	304	401	60	373	197	
1997	64	44	44	15	0	71	
1998	91	9	99	82	208	193	
1999	57	53	113	250	541	372	
2000	487	235	309	554	698	791	
2001	862	510	1,201	1,787	1,989	2,114	
2002	1,037	1,048	414	618	1,491	982	
2003	1,322	260	332	272	703	893	
2004	215	204	295	328	248	270	
2005	1,383	1,230	1,161	2,198	2,695	2,538	
2006	2,644	2,491	3,267	3,119	3,306	4,424	
2007	12,056	7,582	6,430	5,097	5,434	5,469	
2008	9,666	9,603	7,884	10,492	10,151	11,299	
2009	9,819	6,527	8,942	8,548	11,592	10,577	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
1995	294	245	402	219	35	181	2,426
1996	219	164	195	188	103	22	2,482
1997	134	235	32	163	121	19	942
1998	195	132	21	92	174	90	1,386
1999	475	479	304	217	285	305	3,451
2000	945	981	674	650	871	1,041	8,236
2001	1,968	1,385	1,536	1,608	1,724	1,395	18,079
2002	957	632	670	572	874	906	10,201
2003	435	135	150	384	331	213	5,430
2004	123	1,637	1,801	1,104	1,579	1,420	9,224
2005	2,048	2,684	2,219	4,062	4,648	3,239	30,105
2006	5,232	8,991	9,091	10,672	12,830	8,897	74,964
2007	5,718	8,839	6,741	7,111	7,248	6,880	84,605
2008	8,674	6,994	6,462	7,188	6,198	7,817	102,428
2009	10,765	11,711	12,541	13,857	12,783	11,718	129,380

<sup>1</sup> Data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Import data by species was not available prior to July 2004. Starting with July 2004 data includes freshwater imports for consumption of *Ictalurus* spp., *Pangasius* spp., and other catfish of the order Siluriformes.

**Catfish: *Ictalurus* spp. Imports, by Month, United States, 2005-2009<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
2005	541	285	171	217	154	171	
2006	415	417	388	403	356	909	
2007	4,381	3,030	2,101	1,139	1,394	388	
2008	2,944	2,575	2,040	3,040	2,864	1,758	
2009	2,344	1,225	972	1,364	1,659	1,088	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
2005	82	199	247	264	426	461	3,218
2006	547	819	391	1,406	2,399	3,421	11,871
2007	401	80	607	1,061	1,199	1,678	17,459
2008	1,202	1,315	987	579	1,374	2,425	23,103
2009	1,849	1,210	1,385	1,584	2,144	2,527	19,351

<sup>1</sup> Data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Reliability of Catfish Processing Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** Survey data for catfish processing are collected from approximately 18 processors. All participating processors must meet the minimum criteria of having a capacity to process at least 2,000 pounds live weight of catfish per 8-hour shift. The survey is conducted entirely by NASS Headquarters staff in Washington, D.C. However, NASS field offices are responsible for informing Headquarters staff of any new processing operations in their state to ensure complete survey coverage. Processors are contacted either by mail, telephone, fax or internet. Diligent effort is made to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimate.

**Estimation Procedures:** The "Catfish Processing" report refers strictly to farm-raised fish and excludes wild capture fish. Prior to summarization, questionnaires are compared with the previous month's reports for comparable placement of data, reasonable price levels, and a reasonable inventory carryover given the sales and processing totals reported. Estimates are made for those processors whose reports are not available in time to be included in the release. These plants are identified by an asterisk on page 11 of this release. Estimates are normally based on the processor's previous report and current conditions. Published totals are a straight summation of the individual reports and estimated data. Price items are weighted by the associated volumes to compute weighted average prices. The published price for total whole fish, however, reflects an adjustment to the round and gutted only price to bring it to an equivalent dressed weight price.

If a plant uses a fiscal accounting system, prorating is used to convert reported data to a calendar month basis. Only national level estimates are published due to the limited number of plants involved.

One unique feature of the "Catfish Processing" report is the listing of cooperating processors by name on each month's release. This feature originally was used to solicit industry cooperation in maintaining coverage, but it has continued because of the processors' overall acceptance of this policy.

Import and export data for catfish, which are compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, are also included in this report.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions may be necessary in the previous month's publication based on late reports received from plants. These revisions are made to improve month to month relationships. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year are reviewed and subject to revision. This review is primarily based on data that may have been received after the original estimates were published.

**Reliability:** Estimates are based on a census of all known active processors and, therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

### Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch, Inc.  
Carolina Classics Catfish, LLC  
Consolidated Catfish Producers, LLC  
Delta Supreme Fish Processors  
Fish Breeders of Idaho, Inc.  
Farm Catch Catfish Processors, Inc.  
Freshwater Farms Products, LLC  
Guidry Catfish, Inc.  
Haring's Pride Catfish

Harvest Select Catfish, Inc.  
Heartland Catfish  
Lake's Farm Raised Catfish Inc.  
Pride of the Pond  
Prime Line Inc.  
Seabrook Seafood, Inc.  
Simmons Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.  
SouthFresh Farms  
Superior Fish Products

## Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Processing Estimates:

**Average Price Paid to Producers** - Refers to the price of fish delivered to the processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

**Fillet** - Boned sides of the fish, cut lengthwise away from the backbone. Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

**Fresh Fish** - Fish intended for immediate consumption. Also referred to as ice-packed.

**Frozen Fish** - Fish which are individually quick frozen and glazed (IQF) or individually bagged and bulk frozen.

***Ictalurus* spp.** - All species under this genus, which includes channel catfish, blue catfish, and other catfish species.

**Nuggets** - Small fillets cuts from below the rib section of the fish and usually includes weight of breading and added ingredients.

**Other Products** - Includes steaks, nuggets, and all other products not separately reported including the weight of breading and added ingredients.

***Pangasius* spp.** - All species under this genus, which includes basa, tra, stuchi catfish, and other catfish species.

**Round & Gutt** - Fish with no processing done or viscera only removed.

**Round Weight** - The term for a fish's live weight.

**Siluriformes** - The scientific order which contains all families of catfish.

**Steaks** - Cross-section cuts from larger dressed fish.

**Strips** - Finger size pieces of fish cut from fillets and usually includes breading or added ingredients.

**Whole Dressed** - Weight of whole fish with only head, viscera, and skin removed. Generally, 60 percent of the live weight remains as dressed fish.

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch ..... (202) 720-3570

Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section..... (202) 720-4447

Doug Bounds - Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised ..... (202) 690-3237

David Colwell - Cold Storage ..... (202) 720-8784

Chris Hawthorn - Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,  
Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink ..... (202) 720-0585

Kim Linonis - Layers, Eggs ..... (202) 690-8632

Troy Marshall - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey ..... (202) 720-3244

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